

## Message Text

SECRET

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22

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ONY-00 /011 W  
----- 076586

P 300910Z SEP 76

FM USDEL MBFR VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1767

S E C R E T MBFR VIENNA 0459

FOR WASHINGTON TO ACDA ONLY, FOR DIRECTOR FRED C IKLE  
FROM ACDA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR LEON SLOSS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH ISSUE

1. IN VIEW OF YOUR PHONE CALL LAST NIGHT AND WASHINGTON  
MEETING TODAY, I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HAVE MY PERSONAL  
VIEWS ON CURRENT STATE OF MBFR NEGOTIATIONS. YOU MAY  
WISH TO PASS THIS ON TO SONNENFELDT, HYLAND AND WADE.

2. I GATHER WASHINGTON IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT  
PROPOSED SOLUTIONS THAT EMERGED FROM LONDON TRILATERAL.  
NEITHER AM I. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT CLEAR TO ME THAT  
THERE IS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL  
MONTHS.

3. BELGIAN APPROACH WILL BE SEEN BY WASHINGTON AS  
A VARIANT OF WHAT WE EARLIER CALLED THE FINESSE  
OPTION AND WHICH ONCE HAD CONSIDERABLE SUPPORT THERE.  
MAJOR RISK OF THAT APPROACH IS EROSION OF COMMON  
CEILING PRINCIPLE WHICH MAKES IT UNACCEPTABLE TO  
FRG. THE FRG BARIANT REMOVES RISKS TO COMMON  
CEILING, BUT PROBABLY WILL PROVE UNACCEPTABLE TO  
FRENCH (AS I HAVE TOLD FRED RUTH) THUS LEAVING US  
RIGHT WHERE WE STARTED.

4. THE U.S. DELEGATION'S SUGGESTIONS WHICH  
WERE TRANSMITTED YESTERDAY, WHILE CHARACTERISTICALLY  
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OVER-ELABORATE, DEMONSTRATE A POSSIBLE WAY OF

INTRODUCING THE FRG PAPER SO AS TO PERMIT IT TO  
SLIDE BY THE FRENCH WITHOUT CHALLENGE. THIS MAY  
NOT WORK, BUT WHAT ARE THE ALTERNATIVES?

5. THE BEST SOLUTION IS STILL TO PERSUADE FRENCH  
THAT COMMON CEILING IS NOT CONTRARY TO THEIR  
INTERESTS. THIS REQUIRES A HIGH LEVEL APPROACH  
TO FRENCH. FRG IS UNWILLING TO UNDERTAKE THIS  
WITHOUT U.S. AND UK SUPPORT. EVEN IF BOTH FORD AND  
SCHMIDT WIN FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS SUCH AN APPROACH  
UNLIKELY THIS YEAR AS NEW GERMAN GOVERNMENT NOT  
INSTALLED UNTIL DECEMBER. EVEN THEN SUCH AN  
APPROACH IS NOT AT ALL SURE OF SUCCESS.

6. OTHER OPTION IS TO DELAY WHICH WASHINGTON  
SEEMS NOW TO PREFER. IT SEEMS UNLIKELY THAT WE  
CAN DELAY TABLING DATA THROUGH THIS CURRENT ROUND  
WITHOUT HIGH RISK OF BOTH PUBLIC EASTERN PROPOGANDA  
DIRECTED AT DELATORY WESTERN NEGOTIATORS AND STRONG  
PRESSURES IN BRUSSELS TO BY-PASS THE FRENCH. THUS  
DELAY SEEMS LIKELY TO INCREASE THE RISKS OF CONFRONTA-  
TIONS WITH THE FRENCH AND WITH THE GERMANS TO SAY  
NOTHING OF THE EAST. IT SHOULD BE BORNE IN MIND  
THAT AHG WILL SUBMIT PROGRESS REPORT TO NAC OCTOBER  
22, AND WHILE SPC MEETING CAN BE DELAYED FOR A TIME,  
FRENCH PROBLEM IS LIKELY TO RE-EMERGE AT OCTOBER 20  
MEETING UNLESS SOLVED SOONER.

7. MY RECOMMENDATION FOR AN INTERIM SOLUTION TO  
CURRENT TACTICAL IMPASSE IS TO SUPPORT FRG APPROACH.  
HOWEVER, THEY SHOULD BE URGED TO PRESENT THEIR  
PAPER TO THE FRENCH ORALLY RATHER THAN IN WRITING.  
IF THEY CANNOT ACCEPT THIS -- AND I DOUBT THEY WILL  
-- WE SHOULD WORK OUT WITH FRG AGREED TALKING POINTS  
TO ACCOMPANY PRESENTATION TO FRENCH ALONG LINES  
SUGGESTED BY U.S. MBFR DELEGATION.

8. IN ANY EVENT WASHINGTON SHOULD CONSIDER  
SERIOUSLY THE CONSEQUENCES OF AN EFFORT TO BLOCK  
OR DELAY INDEFINITELY THE FRG PROPOSAL WHICH  
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APPARENTLY HAS HIGH LEVEL ENDORSEMENT IN BONN AND  
GROWING SUPPORT FROM BELIANS, DUTCH AND POSSIBLY  
OTHERS. IF THERE ARE BETTER ALTERNATIVES BY ALL  
MEANS LET US PUT THEM FORTH, BUT THEY ARE NOT  
APPARENT FROM WHERE I SIT.

9. LELAND AGREES WITH THIS MESSAGE AND ADDS THAT  
THIS LOWER LEVEL APPROACH HAS VERY LITTLE CHANCE

OF SUCCESS BUT SHOULD BE MADE IF FRG WANTS IT.

RESOR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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